



PRESS RELEASE
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Food Bank Elects New Board Members, Recognizes Community Partners with 2010 Leadership Awards at Annual Meeting

Camp Street Ministries Honored with Milestone Achievement Award

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – At its 2010 Annual Meeting, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank elected three new members to its Board of Directors and honored the contributions of individuals retiring from its board. The Food Bank also recognized one of its member agency partners with a Milestone Achievement Award and presented two community partners with 2010 Leadership Awards.

The Food Bank is pleased to announce the election of three new Board Members.

Joe MarcAurele is the Chairman and CEO of Washington Trust. Prior to joining the Westerly-based bank in 2009, Joe served as President, Citizens Bank, Rhode Island. Always passionate about giving back, he has frequently been recognized for his involvement and commitment to the community. A life-long Rhode Islander, Joe believes in staying close to his roots. “My belief is that a good business leader needs to be a part of the community and invest in the success of those communities.”

Yvette Kenner is the Executive Director of South Providence Neighborhood Ministries (SPNM), a member agency of the Food Bank. SPNM helps nearly 200 people each week, offering a multitude of services, from help with rent and utilities to food assistance. As one of the Food Bank’s largest member agencies, SPNM serves the surrounding South Providence neighborhood that Kenner has called home her entire life. Prior to joining SPNM, Yvette was the Executive Director of Literacy Volunteers of Rhode Island.

Jyothi Subramaniam joins the Food Bank’s Board of Directors, and is also a current member of its Development Committee. Jyothi holds an undergraduate degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management and a graduate degree in Hotel Management from Johnson & Wales, where she has also taught Marketing. She has long been an advocate for the hungry, volunteering her time at Amos House, in addition to the Food Bank and Southside Community Land Trust.

The Food Bank extends its sincere thanks and appreciation to retiring Board Members Lorraine Burns, Executive Director of the Blessed Sacrament Food Pantry, Bob McDonough, former Administrator for the Rhode Island Department of Human Services and Rick Tremblay, former Manager of Community Relations & Associate Communications for Shaw’s Supermarkets. Combined, these dedicated individuals spent more than 15 years serving on the Food Bank’s Board of Directors.

At the conclusion of the appointment of new Board members, the Food Bank honored two community partners with 2010 Leadership Awards. The recipients were Curt Columbus, Artistic Director of Trinity Repertory Company and Carolyn Murray, Senior Director of F/S Capitol Consulting.

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Upon arriving at Trinity in 2006, Curt has been instrumental in growing the Food Bank's relationship with the esteemed theatre company. Beginning with his first season's performances of *A Christmas Carol*, Curt directed Ebenezer Scrooge to talk about the plight of the hungry in Rhode Island at the end of each performance. As patrons left the theatre, members of Trinity's staff collected donations for the Food Bank. Over the past four seasons, Trinity Rep patrons have donated more than \$160,000 to help alleviate hunger in our state. Additionally, Curt and his staff have donated hundreds of tickets, including an entire 2008 performance for struggling families to attend the timeless holiday classic.

As Senior Director for one of the state's largest lobbying firms, Carolyn Murray oversees the firm's pro-bono lobbying on behalf of the Food Bank at both the State House and in Washington, D.C. With a particular interest in food and nutrition, and serving as a voice and advocate for Rhode Island's less fortunate, Carolyn arranged a visit to the Food Bank by USDA Under Secretary Kevin Concannon and organized a Legislative Panel prior to this past spring's moving "Witnesses to Hunger" photo exhibit.

Completing the evening, the Food Bank took the opportunity to honor Camp Street Community Ministries of Providence with a Milestone Achievement Award, recognizing the agency's 25-years of helping the community. A long-time member of the Food Bank's network of emergency food providers, Camp Street Ministries offers a number of programs to help those in need, including clothing assistance, nutrition education, educational and employment referral services.

The Rhode Island Community Food Bank is a non-profit organization located in Providence, RI. The Food Bank solicits, stores and distributes food products donated by supermarkets, wholesalers, food processors, local farmers and community food drives. The food is then distributed to the Food Bank's network of more than 250 member agency programs. In the past fiscal year, the Food Bank distributed 9.7 million pounds of food. For more information about the Food Bank, please visit www.rifoodbank.org.

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